) August 2018

English only*

Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2–5 October 2018
Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures***

Regional and subregional cooperation in South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction: overview of main trends

1. According to the *World Drug Report 2018* by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Asia has the world's largest market for opiates, amphetamine-type and prescription stimulants. In 2016, approximately 11.2 million users of opiates lived in Asia, accounting for approximately 58 per cent of all users of opiates in the world (19.4 million). With regard to amphetamine-type and prescription stimulants, in 2016, Asia was home to 17.5 million users, representing roughly 51 per cent of the global total (34.2 million users).

2. Heroin and methamphetamine continue to be the major illicit drug threats in Asia and the Pacific. However, in South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, there are strong indications of a shift from opiates to synthetic drugs. Most indicators suggest that the illicit manufacture of, traffic in and use of methamphetamine in tablet and crystalline forms have expanded continuously over the last decade. Meanwhile, data for seizures, use and opium poppy cultivation in the region show decreases in the size of the regional heroin market.

3. In recent years, there have been clear indications of the presence of large-scale transnational drug trafficking groups that target multiple countries across South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

4. Transnational criminal groups, mainly from Asia and the Americas, continue to use the Pacific island countries and territories, not only as hubs for the trans-shipment of illicit drugs — including cocaine and methamphetamine and its precursor

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.
** UNODC/HONLAP/42/1.
*** Data for 2017 and the first half of 2018 used in the present document are preliminary and may be subject to change.

Please recycle

chemicals, primarily en route to Australia and New Zealand — but increasingly also as destinations.

5. A growing range of new psychoactive substances, including synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinone, continue to emerge on illicit markets across East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, and some of these substances have caused serious public health concerns.

6. The precursor detection rate in South Asia, East Asia and South-East Asia is extremely low and drug trafficking groups continue to use alternative precursor chemicals to circumvent national and international legislation. The use of alternative precursor chemicals presents a significant challenge to countries across the region, which is demonstrated by increasing amounts of various synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine, being produced and trafficked within and from the region to other countries. In addition, in East and South-East Asia, recent seizure trends of precursor chemicals are not corresponding to those of synthetic drugs, indicating that law enforcement authorities in the region have not been able to cope with increasing diversion and trafficking of precursor chemicals.

7. The *Afghan Opium Survey 2017* shows an unprecedented level of opium production in Afghanistan, which could serve to destabilize the region under analysis. From a health perspective, there is a concrete risk of an exponential growth in the use of opiates globally. From a security perspective, the opium production surplus offers financial opportunities for criminal organizations and terrorist groups to enhance their operations locally and globally.

8. The greatest drug-related challenges facing South Asia are trafficking in heroin; a rise in trafficking in and manufacturing of methamphetamine; diversion of controlled substances to illicit channels; smuggling of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and insufficient coordination between drug enforcement agencies in the region. The recent trend indicates that synthetic drugs are replacing the natural and semi-synthetic drugs that have been abused for decades. In recent years, South Asia has experienced the impacts of the increasing use of the southern route (trafficking route that facilitates southerly flows of heroin out of Afghanistan), with larger seizures of heroin originating from Afghanistan. There have been more cocaine seizures in the region in the past few years than ever with reports from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, despite eradication efforts by the Government of Nepal, a considerable amount of illicit cannabis cultivation persists in the country.

9. The overall quantity of cocaine seized in Asia tripled from 2015 to 2016, while increasing 10-fold in South Asia during the same period. Overall, reporting of opiate seizures by European countries linked nine per cent of countries of origin, departure and transit to trafficking along the southern route over the period 2012–2016. Other new developments have been observed in South Asia: expansion of synthetic drug markets, with indications that amphetamine trafficking may be expanding in the near and Middle East, South-West Asia and North Africa.

10. Illicit drug trafficking continues to be the most lucrative form of crime in the region. The trafficking of opiates from the Golden Crescent is harmful to destination countries as well as those of origin and transit in South Asia. There are strong interlinkages between drug trafficking and the spread of crime, corruption, drug use and disorders, and HIV infection, with serious implications for the regional legal, political, economic and social stability.

II. Detailed assessment of production and trafficking trends

A. Regional developments

11. The market for illicit drugs, in particular, methamphetamine, continues to expand in East and South-East Asia. In 2016, seizures of methamphetamine amounted

to more than 61 tons in the region, marking more than a six-fold increase over the previous decade. Preliminary data from 2017 suggest a significant increase in the quantities intercepted, indicating there are no signs of a slowdown in the expansion of the methamphetamine market.

12. With nearly 30 tons seized in East and South-East Asia in 2016, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine decreased for the first time since 2010; however, it is the second highest amount on record. Countries in the Greater Mekong subregion accounted for about 75 per cent of all such seizures in 2016. According to preliminary figures for 2017, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine in the region amounted to 33 tons.

13. In 2016, nearly 330 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in East and South-East Asia, almost all of them in the Greater Mekong subregion. Neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh and Malaysia, have seized increasing quantities of tablets in recent years. Preliminary data for 2017 indicate that seizures of the drug increased further, reaching 450 million tablets.

14. While seizures of methamphetamine have been on the rise in East and South-East Asia in recent years, seizures of its key precursor chemicals, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, have decreased. Seizures of the two chemicals in 2016 amounted to approximately 9.4 tons, reflecting a decrease of 60 per cent over 2015 and 75 per cent compared with 2014. Although this decreasing trend could be, in part, due to increases in the use of alternative methamphetamine precursor chemicals, including 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P), steep decreases in seizures of the two chemicals are of great concern, because they remain the most widely used precursors for the manufacture of methamphetamine in the region.

15. In recent years, the retail price of a methamphetamine tablet has decreased in several countries in East and South-East Asia, including Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand, while seizures of the drug in the region significantly increased, indicating the intensified scale of production for the drug.

16. The Pacific islands are continuously used as a transit point for drug trafficking. Methamphetamine and precursor chemicals from Asia and cocaine from the Americas are trafficked to and through the Pacific. Australian national authorities seized 700 kg of cocaine trafficked through French Polynesia in November 2017. In addition, Pacific countries are used for producing methamphetamine.

17. Perceived increases in consumption and manufacturing capacity as well as increased seizures point to a growing market for crystalline methamphetamine in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific. In those regions, methamphetamine has long been available in the form of both crystalline methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets, but crystalline methamphetamine use has now become a key concern.

18. Heroin remains a persistent challenge in East and South-East Asia, although available data may indicate that the market demand is decreasing. According to the *Myanmar Opium Survey 2017*, the total area of opium poppy cultivation in the country decreased significantly in 2017 to 41,000 hectares (ha), down 25 per cent from the 55,500 ha recorded in 2015. Similar to the opium poppy cultivation trend, seizures of heroin also decreased from more than 12 tons in 2015 to about 10 tons in 2017, according to preliminary data.

19. No change has been observed in seizures of "ecstasy" (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)) over the last three years in East and South-East Asia, with about 1 ton seized per annum. However, a few countries in the region, including Singapore and Thailand, have reported a higher purity of "ecstasy" tablets compared with years prior to 2014, while data for prices have been stable. The lack of price fluctuation might indicate that precursor chemicals for the drug have become more readily available. In addition, tablets sold as "ecstasy" in the region contain various substances other than 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, including new psychoactive substances.

20. There are strong indications of the expansion of the cocaine market throughout the whole of Asia, because seizures of the drug in the region have increased significantly. For example, the quantity of cocaine seized in Asia tripled from 2015 to 2016, with most growth reported in South Asia, where the quantity seized increased 10-fold, and in East and South-East Asia.

21. A growing range of new psychoactive substances, including synthetic cannabinoids, has been observed in East and South-East Asia. In total, 502 different new psychoactive substances — most possessing a stimulant effect — were reported by countries in East and South-East Asia between 2008 and 2016. This might reflect the existence of a large market for stimulants in the region, which is dominated by methamphetamine. However, the use of such substances in the region is not considered to be widespread, and the new psychoactive substances reported in the region might not necessarily be intended for the regional markets, because East and South-East Asia are frequently perceived as a major source or origin of new psychoactive substances detected and/or used in other regions.

22. Some of the new psychoactive substances found in the region have caused serious public health concerns. For instance, authorities in New Zealand issued a warning, following at least seven deaths that occurred in Auckland in July 2017, all of which involved the use of synthetic cannabinoids.

23. In 2016, seizures of ketamine in East and South-East Asia declined significantly, which was largely the result of a massive drop in quantities seized in China, including Hong Kong, China. However, other countries in the region, including Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand, reported relatively large quantities of ketamine seized in 2016. Malaysia also dismantled the first clandestine laboratory ever detected on its territory.

24. Several countries in East and South-East Asia, including China, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam, have been targeted as transit countries for khat originating in Africa. Viet Nam has reported large amounts of khat seizures since 2016. In March 2017, Viet Nam authorities seized 2.6 tons of khat in Hai Phong.

B. National developments

25. The latest wastewater drug monitoring programme report of Australia confirms that methamphetamine remains the most widely consumed illicit drug in the country. The same report estimates that about 8.4 tons of the drug are used in the country annually. In addition, it is important to note that there has been a change in the preferred forms of methamphetamine used in the country. According to national surveys conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, in 2010, 22 per cent of people reported as methamphetamine users were crystalline methamphetamine users. In 2016, that figure increased to 57 per cent.

26. In Bangladesh, methamphetamine in tablet form is the main drug abused in the country. Tablets are smuggled from Myanmar through its south-east border. Seizures have been consistently increasing, from 120,000 tablets in 2009 to over 40 million tablets in 2017. The western and northern borders of Bangladesh are used for trafficking of heroin, phensedyl and buprenorphine. Since 2007, the number of amphetamine-type related arrests and seizures has been on the rise.

27. Codeine-based cough syrups are so widely abused in Bangladesh that that country has banned the production and sale of such syrups on its territory. However, owing to their legal availability in India, they are smuggled in large quantities through land and river routes. Ease of availability, low risk perception and compatibility with both smoking and non-smoking populations have led to their popularity among drug users in Bangladesh. The seizures of codeine-based cough syrups declined in 2016 but increased in 2017, with a seizure of 720,843 bottles.

28. Most of the heroin seized in Bangladesh is trafficked from India into Bangladesh through its western and eastern borders. However, good-quality heroin sourced from

V 18-05399

the Golden Triangle occasionally enters the country by way of its south-eastern coastline, mostly for further shipment to Europe and America by sea. The upward trend in the seizure of heroin in the country continued in 2017, with an increase of more than 150 per cent from the previous years, reaching 401.63 kg.

29. Cannabis is the most commonly abused drug in Bangladesh and is mainly smuggled into the country from India. In addition, illicit cultivation of cannabis in remote areas of Bangladesh has been reported. Seizures of cannabis in Bangladesh have been showing an upward trend since 2013, increasing from 47,104 kg in 2016 to 69,989 kg in 2017.

30. Cannabis is the most common drug abused in Bhutan, smuggled into the country from India, along with small quantities of low-quality heroin. The number of cases recorded for drug offences increased from 316 in 2016 to 555 in 2017. During 2017 and the first half of 2018, Spasmo Proxyvon Plus capsules were seized in large quantities: 130,316 capsules in 2017, and 40,380 capsules in the period from January to June 2018. In addition, seizures of correction fluid and thinners were reported.

31. The abuse of pharmaceutical preparations — benzodiazepines in particular, such as diazepam and nitrazepam — that contain controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances pose an increasing threat in Bhutan. The abuse of codeine-based cough syrups has also been reported. Pharmaceutical preparations are mainly smuggled from India.

32. According to the Narcotics Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam, crystalline methamphetamine is the primary drug of concern in the country, followed by cannabis. A total of 91 per cent of persons arrested for drug use in 2017 had used crystalline methamphetamine. Authorities in Brunei Darussalam have noted that the use of ketamine and nimetazepam has increased in the country, which is also reflected in the amount of those drugs seized in the first half of 2017.

33. Cambodia has been increasingly used as a transit point for methamphetamine, and the use and availability of that substance continue to increase in the country. In recent years, the total number of arrests for drug-related offences in Cambodia has increased almost 10-fold, from 1,830 in 2013 to 17,800 in 2017, according to the National Authority for Combating Drugs. That increase is in part the result of the new Government approach, which puts more emphasis on law enforcement measures. In addition, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine in 2017 amounted to 80 kg, the highest on record. It is also important to note that authorities in Cambodia seized 120 kg of methamphetamine trafficked from the Lao People's Democratic Republic in June 2018, the largest methamphetamine trafficking case ever reported by Cambodia.

34. The popularity of synthetic drugs in China has risen in recent years. Based on data from the National Narcotics Control Commission of China, about 80 per cent of newly registered drug users between 2015 and 2017 were using synthetic drugs, indicating that those drugs have replaced opiates as the primary drug group of concern in the country. By the end of 2017, there were nearly 2.553 million registered drug users in China, and of the total registered drug users, 1.538 million (or 60.2 per cent) were synthetic drug users.

35. A large number of clandestine drug manufacturing facilities are dismantled each year in China. In 2017, China investigated 597 cases related to illicit drug production and dismantled 317 drug manufacturing sites, seizing 23.3 tons of various drugs. The number of drug manufacturing sites dismantled in 2017 was nearly 30 per cent lower than in 2016. The Government of China has noted that illicit drug production activities migrated from key areas such as Guangdong and Fujian to other regions, including border areas, making it more complex to address related challenges.

36. In India, there was a 10-fold increase in the quantity of amphetamine-type substances seized in 2016, to 1,687 kg, compared with 2015, followed by a marked reduction in 2017, down to 95 kg. In August 2018, the seizure of 130,000 tablets of methamphetamine was reported in north-east India. Heroin seizures in the country have been increasing since 2014. In 2017, they were reported to be 2,146 kg,

compared with 1,675 kg in 2016, making it the largest amount of seized heroin reported in the past several years. The downward trend in opium seizures in India that had been witnessed since 2012 came to a halt in 2016. That year, seized quantities increased by more than 30 per cent (2,251 kg) and remained stable in 2017. At the same time, the quantities of morphine seized witnessed a 16-fold increase, from 28 kg in 2016 to 449 kg in 2017. In June 2018, the seizure of 308 kg of ketamine was reported. This represented a huge increase since 2016, when the nationwide seizure of ketamine was 68.06 kg.

37. The eradication of illicit opium crops by national agencies in India rose from 3,461 acres in 2015 to 8,878.89 acres in 2018. The illicitly cultivated area eradicated by May 2018 was the largest in the past five years.

38. The quantity of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine seized in India witnessed a sharp rise, from 827 kg in 2015 to 2,990 kg in 2017. Seizures of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine trafficked from India into Myanmar for the purpose of precursor extraction continued to be reported.

39. Hashish seizures in India increased, reaching 2,943 cases in 2017. In addition to domestic production, Nepal is a major source of hashish.

40. In February 2018, authorities in Indonesia made two seizures of crystalline methamphetamine (1.6 tons and 1 ton) from trafficking attempts by vessel in which persons from Taiwan Province of China were on board. Seizures of methamphetamine in Indonesia remained high at more than 3.6 tons, the second-largest quantity reported from the country. That amount was partially due to a large-scale trafficking case involving nearly 1 ton of the drug reported in July 2017. Several trafficking cases reported in recent years in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific denote that drug trafficking groups from Taiwan Province of China have been playing a significant role in large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking in the regions.

41. In recent years, large quantities of crystalline methamphetamine have been seized in Japan according to its national police agency. In 2016, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine were about 1.5 tons, the largest amount since 2010. In 2017, seizures of the drug totalled 1.1 tons. The steep increase in seized quantity of that drug in recent years is the result of seizures of several large shipments originating overseas. The national authorities of Japan seized 350 kg and 480 kg of crystalline methamphetamine in April and August 2017.

42. At 142 kg, the quantity of crystalline methamphetamine seized in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2017 was the second highest ever reported in the country. The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision reported to UNODC that the most significant case involved 109 kg of methamphetamine and occurred in November 2017 in Bokeo province, bordering Myanmar and Thailand. Between 2006 and 2012, no seizures of crystalline methamphetamine were reported in the country.

43. There has been a significant change in the illicit drug market in Malaysia. For instance, for the first time in 2017, the number of identified methamphetamine users in Malaysia surpassed that of opiate-based drugs (heroin and morphine), according to data from the national anti-drug agency. A total of 10,419 methamphetamine users were detected in 2017, an increase of 3.1 per cent, compared with 10,017 in 2016. During the same period, the number of heroin and morphine users decreased by 40 per cent, from 16,895 to 10,154.

44. The maritime southern route is gaining importance in South Asia as some of the largest heroin seizures outside the source region have been made on that route. Maldives has also emerged as a transit point for drug trafficking that takes place through seaports and airports. However, increased smuggling using the postal system has been reported in 2017 and 2018. Expatriate workers in Maldives are often used as carriers and peddlers for trafficking. During 2018, Maldives witnessed an increase in seizures of methamphetamine, "ecstasy", cannabis and heroin.

45. There is strong evidence that methamphetamine production in the Golden Triangle has intensified. In January 2018, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of the police force of Myanmar reported to UNODC seizures, in Kutkai township in Shan State, of 1.75 tons of crystalline methamphetamine, 30 million methamphetamine tablets and 200 kg of caffeine, which is used as a methamphetamine tablet cutting agent. In addition, neighbouring countries of Myanmar reported record amounts of methamphetamine seizures in 2017, corresponding to the expanded drug production in the Golden Triangle.

46. Reductions in the opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar have been most significant in East Shan and South Shan, with decreases of 37 and 29 per cent, respectively. However, the report also reveals that although progress has been made, North Shan and Kachin States have seen reductions of less than 3 and 7 per cent, respectively, which on the ground amounts to a decrease of only 600 hectares in total, reconfirming the link between conflict and opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar.

47. In Nepal, drug seizures for 2017 include 3,734 kg of cannabis, 1,372 kg of hashish, 69 kg of opium, and 4 kg each of heroin and cocaine. Through May 2018, the annual seizures include 1,781 kg of cannabis, 932 kg of hashish, 7 kg of opium, and 1 kg each of heroin and cocaine. In 2017, the most popular pharmaceutical preparations seized were diazepam (49,304 tablets), buprenorphine (31,567 tablets) and khat (8 kg).

48. In New Zealand, quantities of methamphetamine seized increased significantly, from 15 kg in 2013 to 986 kg in 2016, based on data reported to UNODC through the annual report questionnaire. The largest quantities of methamphetamine seized at the border in 2016 originated in China (including Hong Kong, China), followed by Thailand. At the same time, more than 1.2 metric tons of ephedrine were seized in the country in 2016, the highest on record. Such a large seizure is inconsistent with the number of illicit methamphetamine-manufacturing facilities dismantled in New Zealand, which has decreased continuously in recent years.

49. According to data from the Dangerous Drugs Board of the Philippines, approximately 1 metric ton of crystalline methamphetamine was seized in 2017. Although that amount represented a 54 per cent decrease compared with 2016, it was still the second-largest amount seized over the last decade. More than half of the total amount seized in 2017 was the result of a single trafficking case. The case involved more than 600 kg of the drug, which originated in China and was seized in Valenzuela City in May 2017.

50. Recent data for seizures, use, arrests, treatment admissions and prices indicate the expansion of the crystalline methamphetamine market in the Republic of Korea. According to the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of that country, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine for the first five months of 2018 in the country (29 kg) already reached a level similar to the amount of the drug seized in 2017. At the same time, source countries of the crystalline methamphetamine trafficked to the Republic of Korea have diversified in recent years.

51. According to the Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore, in 2017, a total of 3,089 drug users were arrested in the country, of whom 1,989 (64 per cent) used methamphetamine and 847 (27 per cent) used heroin. About 80 per cent of all newly identified drug users (1,249) were methamphetamine users, while heroin only accounted for 4 per cent of the total. In 2017, seizures of methamphetamine in the country remain high at 21.4 kg, all of which was destined for the local drug market.

52. The close proximity of Sri Lanka to the two major illicit opiate-producing regions — the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent — attracts the attention of international drug cartels. Cannabis and heroin are the main illicit drugs abused in Sri Lanka. Cannabis is the only plant-based drug illicitly cultivated locally. Between January and May 2018, approximately 2,213 kg of cannabis and over 30 kg of heroin were seized.

53. Abuse of psychotropic substances is becoming a significant problem in Sri Lanka. People become addicted to one or more of these substances, either after medical use or to evade withdrawal symptoms of heroin addiction when it is not available on the market. Although these substances are controlled medicines, they seem to be freely available on the black market.

54. The total quantity of heroin and cannabis seized in Sri Lanka were 314.955 kg, and 4,987.61 kg, respectively, and 220.697 kg of cocaine was seized in 2017. The main trafficking routes are sea routes from southern India (heroin originating from India) and Pakistan (heroin originating in Afghanistan). The preferred route for smuggling from southern India into Sri Lanka has been the sea lanes between the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait, in particular through the port of Tuticorin. Bulk quantities of heroin arrive by sea with the support of fishermen working with drug smugglers from southern India.

55. With the intensified methamphetamine production in the Golden Triangle, the amount of methamphetamine seized in Thailand in 2017 increased significantly compared with previous years. According to the Office of Narcotics Control Board of Thailand, in 2017, more than 7.5 metric tons of crystalline methamphetamine were seized in the country, which is by far the largest quantity ever reported by that country. In addition, nearly 240 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in the country in that year, which is also a record amount. Considering several recent major methamphetamine seizures reported by the country, seizures of methamphetamine in 2018 will likely be higher than in 2017.

56. According to the Standing Office on Drug Control of Viet Nam, heroin remains the primary drug of concern in that country. In 2016, approximately 75 per cent of registered drug users were heroin users. However, the synthetic drug market in the country continues to expand and diversify, and crystalline methamphetamine use seems to be on the increase across the country. In 2017, Viet Nam authorities seized 857 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, together with 1 million methamphetamine tablets. In addition, authorities in Viet Nam also dismantled sites related to the manufacture of illicit methamphetamine, "ecstasy" and synthetic cannabinoids.

III. International cooperation

A. Regional conferences and meetings on drug control

57. The twenty-second Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference was held in Japan in February 2018 to discuss the current drug situation in the Asia-Pacific region. The aim of the conference was to strengthen information exchange and cooperation, with a special focus on transnational criminal groups trafficking in methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances in the region.

58. In September 2018, the twenty-eighth Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation was held in the Republic of Korea, with the participation of representatives from Asia, the Pacific and Europe, as well as UNODC. Participants discussed emerging challenges posed by illicit drugs, including new psychoactive substances identified in the region.

59. In July 2018, the sixth operational workshop of the Drug Monitoring Network of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held in Thailand, with the participation of all ASEAN members as well as representatives of the ASEAN secretariat and the Substance Abuse Academic Network of Thailand. The main purpose of the workshop was to review and monitor the ASEAN drug situation as well as to exchange information among ASEAN members, which leads to the formulation of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2017.

60. The thirty-ninth meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters and its related meetings were held in Brunei Darussalam in August 2018. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation at the regional level in the

framework of the ASEAN Workplan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016–2025.

61. The tenth Asia Forensic Science Network Annual Meeting and Symposium were held in Singapore in September 2018 on the theme of new technologies, new methods and new challenges. The meeting provided a forum for forensic experts from Asia and other regions to learn about and discuss the latest advancements in forensic science, including measures to better detect and identify new psychoactive substances.

62. The South Asia Senior Expert Group Meeting was organized in March 2018 in New Delhi, pursuing the establishment of the South Asian Regional Intelligence and Coordination Centre (SARICC). Senior officials from law enforcement agencies and Ministries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. The SARICC platform is aimed at strengthening regional cooperation against transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking. In March 2018, South Asia SARICC experts took part in a study visit to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to visit the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre.

63. The fifth meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the meeting of the Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals, were held in Kathmandu in May 2018.

B. Cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Governments of the region

64. In 2018, UNODC provided 872 field drug and precursor identification kits to law enforcement in the Greater Mekong Subregion. The provision was a part of an integrated law enforcement support plan under the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control that brings together six countries in East and South-East Asia — namely, Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam — to address the threat of illicit drug production, trafficking and use. These kits have supported the capacity of front-line drug law enforcement to swiftly identify suspected drugs and precursors, assisting them in taking on-site response appropriately, following the detection of suspicious substances. Training sessions were conducted on the usage of the identification kits in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, with the goal of building the capacity of the law enforcement agencies of those countries to effectively use the kits that UNODC had provided. Also, in 2018, UNODC provided 20 crime scene investigation kits to law enforcement authorities in the Greater Mekong Subregion as part of the front-line equipment support initiative under the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control. The need for tools at the border area to investigate drug crime scenes had been identified as a priority by the countries involved in the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control and investigation kits were delivered in accordance with this request.

65. UNODC supported the establishment of the first trilateral Border Liaison Office at the border shared by China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The liaison office works to improve cross-border coordination between drug law enforcement agencies in the border area, and increases their ability to collect, analyse and disseminate information. There are now 76 such offices operating in the Mekong Subregion, including the trilateral office, with another 14 being planned.

66. The annual focal point meeting of the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 1 and 2 February 2018. During the meeting, participants reviewed the implementation of the 2017 activities of the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control and discussed the workplan and implementation activities for 2018. Logistical arrangements for future activities and meetings were also discussed and agreed upon.

67. Under the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control, UNODC facilitated a side event at the sixty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, to discuss changes in the Golden Triangle's drug market and the impact of the ongoing shift in the region from the production of opiates to synthetic drugs.

68. UNODC designed and carried out training courses on investigation techniques for Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. These training sessions were conducted between January and August 2018 in each country, with 25 to 30 front-line law enforcement officers participating in each training. Additionally, law enforcement authorities from China received training on advanced online investigation and digital forensic techniques in Shanghai, China. Each training built law enforcement capacity related to conducting drug investigations and search procedures. The topics covered were in line with the priorities laid out by the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control for 2018.

69. A workshop on the mapping of drug trafficking routes was held in Ho Chi Minh City on 2 and 3 April 2018. It facilitated the sharing of data and intelligence and provided a forum through which Greater Mekong Subregion countries were able to present national drug trafficking trends and connect these trends across borders. The workshop resulted in a consensus regarding the general trafficking trends in the region, and findings that informed the development of an internal operation analysis for law enforcement decisions.

70. Under the framework of the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control, the UNODC Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific developed a training toolkit entitled "Community-based Services for People Who Use Drugs in South-East Asia". Several Member States have adopted and adapted the toolkit, which is now available in Burmese, Chinese, Khmer, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese. Several training sessions on community-based services for people who use drugs have been conducted. From 9 to 11 April, a training session was conducted in the Philippines with staff from the local government as well as civil society and law enforcement sectors. The session was aimed at building the capacity of participants for increased understanding of drug dependence and care as well as improved service delivery.

71. Promotional activities on the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* were held in the Philippines on 12 and 13 April 2018. Representatives from the departments of education and health, authorities from local government, members of faith-based organizations and civil Society, and the Dangerous Drugs Board gathered to discuss how drug use prevention strategies that are based on scientific evidence can be implemented in the Philippines.

72. The Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control held a Senior Officials Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, from 21 to 25 May 2018. On that occasion, in addition to reviewing the overall progress regarding the implementation of the subregional action plan, participants agreed upon priority areas for 2019, which include the following: precursor control, with a special focus on investigative capacity-building, and law enforcement capacity related to online drug trafficking, maritime drug trafficking and drug treatment.

73. A representative of UNODC, as well as senior officials from Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, travelled to Shan State, Myanmar, on 24 May 2018, in order to meet with former and current opium-growing farmers and community leaders engaged in UNODC alternative development programmes. The visit connected senior regional policymakers with opium-growing communities to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges they face and to discuss best practices for implementing alternative development and sustainable livelihoods programmes in the area. The field visit was arranged jointly by UNODC and the Government of Myanmar.

74. A training for border liaison officers on standard operating procedures for drug law enforcement was held in Pingxiang, China, from 10 to 13 July 2018. The training session reviewed guidelines and best practices for cross-border cooperation and provided practical training on how to apply the standard operating procedures of border liaison offices in the field. The objective of the training session was to empower border liaison officers from China, so that they might engage more with their cross-border counterparts, and to increase the capacity of these officers to carry out investigations upon receiving intelligence.

75. A Greater Mekong Subregion Customs joint operation named the "Mekong Dragon" was supported by the UNODC Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with the regional intelligence liaison offices of Asia and the Pacific of the World Customs Organization, through the organization of the initial meeting in Hangzhou, China, on 7 and 8 August 2018. The operation, which is to continue until February 2019, is working to facilitate enhanced information and intelligence exchange between countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion and to support customs agents to intercept cross-border movements of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals.

76. The UNODC Regional Representative for South-East Asia and the Pacific participated in the thirty-ninth Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters, held in Brunei Darussalam. UNODC delivered a presentation on the latest regional drug trends and the responses of the Office to the shifting drug situation in the region. Additionally, UNODC worked to facilitate greater cooperation between ASEAN and China, advocating for holistic, evidence-based solutions to the drug problems facing South-East Asia and East Asia.

77. As a direct follow-up to the first national workshops, held in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in 2017, the UNODC global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme organized two national technical workshops for the countries, respectively. These workshops brought together representatives of various national authorities and civil society organizations involved in the fight against illicit drugs, and were composed of training and open-discussion sessions aimed at enhancing the capability of illicit drug data collection in the countries. In addition, UNODC assisted the countries in the establishment of national coordination mechanisms, which will be used to centralize data that are related to illicit drugs and that have been generated across national authorities.

78. The UNODC global SMART programme participated in the third National Narcotics Committee meeting of Fiji with a request from the Government of that country. At the meeting, UNODC briefed global and regional illicit drug use and trafficking patterns as well as challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, a growing concern for the country.

79. The SMART programme organized its annual regional workshop in Thailand in August 2018. The workshop was attended by representatives of all ASEAN member States, neighbouring countries in East Asia and the Pacific, to share recent production, use and trafficking patterns and trends in synthetic drugs. In addition, the programme introduced several drug demand indicators for the region to address the lack of drug use and demand data in the region.

80. In May 2018, enforcement, justice, economic and diplomatic senior officials from South-East Asia gathered at the seat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, to discuss regional integration and challenges posed by crime, as well as improvements to border management to help to secure the region. The meeting was organized by the Government of Thailand and UNODC, and its key objective was to build up momentum for improving the management of regional borders to mitigate transnational crime.

81. Between 2014 and 2016, the Governments of Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka joined the UNODC Global Container Control Programme, which includes

... air cargo component, with a view to enhancing capacity to counter traffic in illicit ...igs and precursors through seaports and airports.

...2. In 2016, with the aim of enhancing the capacity of drug regulatory authorities ...nd drug law enforcement agencies to counter diversion and internal and cross-border ...affic in prescription drugs containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances ...nd their preparations, the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, in collaboration ...ith the trade and industry sectors, conducted expert assessments of pharmaceutical ...eparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Bangladesh, ...dia, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The key objectives of the assessments were to: (a) assess ...he nature and extent of the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations in the region; ...) assess the adequacy of prevalent legal and policy regimes governing the abuse of ...maceutical drugs in the region; (c) assess the organizational, regulatory and ...forcement capacities of the concerned agencies; and (d) identify gaps in the legal ...gime and their organizational capacity.

...3. In 2016 and 2017, UNODC conducted training sessions in Bangladesh, India, ...aldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka aimed at building the capacity of law enforcement ...encies to control traffic in pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs ...d psychotropic substances. In addition, awareness-raising workshops were ...ganized for representatives of the pharmaceutical trade and industry sectors, with a ...iew to promoting self-regulation and preventing the diversion and abuse of that type ...f drug.

...4. UNODC assisted Member States in South Asia with building the capacity of ...eir forensic laboratories with regard to testing methods and the identification of new ...sychoactive substances and, accordingly, assisted key national laboratories in the ...gion to register with the UNODC International Collaborative Exercises programme ...o allow them to assess their performance and take corrective actions, when ...ppropriate.

...5. In 2017, UNODC launched a project to reduce drug-related problems by ...facilitating and strengthening the engagement of law enforcement agencies with drug ...er communities. The project is planned to be implemented in close coordination ...th Government officials in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal.

...6. In 2017, UNODC also began the implementation of a new project to strengthen ...oss-border cooperation between Bangladesh and Myanmar to counter drug ...afficking.

...7. The UNODC Regional Office for South Asia developed the new Regional ...rogramme for South Asia (2018–2021), in close consultation with member States in ...at region. Subprogramme 2 of the regional programme contributes to promoting a ...lanced and comprehensive approach to address the drug problem. That effort was ...pursued through, inter alia, a dedicated expert group meeting of specialists, nominated ...y Governments in the region. The expert group meeting was held in New Delhi in ...cember 2017. The meeting provided an opportunity for member States to share key ...itiatives undertaken by their Governments and to formulate the future thematic ...priorities.

...8. UNODC and the World Customs Organization are jointly implementing the ...ontainer Control Programme in South Asia with the aim of assisting Governments ...n creating sustainable enforcement structures at seaports, dry ports and airports. ...nder this initiative, the Programme provided and set up equipment and resources to ...the Air Cargo Control Unit at the Dhaka Customs House, including the state-of-the-art HazMat ID 360 device. The device is a portable chemical identification system ...that provides fast and comprehensive in-field analysis of unknown solids, gels and ...liquids to emergency responders. Through an intensive training workshop held in Dhaka, 12 officials from customs in Bangladesh learned how to utilize the device.

89. In 2017, UNODC initiated a project to reduce drug-related problems by facilitating and strengthening the engagement of law enforcement agencies with the ...g user community at the border of India with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

IV. National efforts and bilateral cooperation

90. According to the Office of National Narcotics Control Commission of China, the country continued its efforts to enhance the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. In 2017, 260,000 drug users were admitted to community-based drug treatment facilities. In addition, the Government of China has been implementing a workplan on community-based treatment and rehabilitation of drug users (2016–2020) to provide such services to a larger number of people.

91. Effective 1 May 2018, the Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore listed 21 substances, which had been scheduled in the Fifth Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA), in the First Schedule of the same Act. Those substances include ADB-FUBINACA, 5-Fluoro-ADB and 2C-C.

92. The Government of Myanmar continued its effort to eradicate opium poppy in 2017. According to the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, a total of 3,533 ha of opium poppy was eradicated in 2017, representing a decrease of 53 per cent compared with 2016, continuing the decline that started in 2015. As in previous years, most of the eradication occurred in South Shan (85 per cent). The decline in eradication since 2015 follows the decreasing cultivation trend.

93. India signed a memorandum of understanding on drug-related matters with 13 countries and bilateral agreements with 24 countries. Senior-level talks are being held with Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

94. The Government of Bangladesh set up liaison offices in border areas to promote cooperation with India and Myanmar in counter-narcotics operations. Furthermore, State-level bilateral meetings were held with the neighbouring countries to prevent smuggling of methamphetamines (commonly known in the region with the name "yaba"). During the meetings, lists of traders and clandestine factories of narcotics production in India and Myanmar were handed over with a call to take necessary steps to cease this phenomenon.

95. The media have reported that the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka pledged to bring stricter laws to curb drug trafficking and use. The youth are a high priority area, with many being arrested in cases for possession of illicit drugs. A number of different cases were reported in which crystalline methamphetamine, cocaine, hashish and heroin were seized from foreign nationals at Bandarnaike International Airport. Cannabis originating in Kerala was seized at various points. Dealing with drug trafficking in prisons remains a problem as large quantities of drugs were believed to have been smuggled into the penitentiaries in 2017. Large quantities of glyphosate along with some other precursor chemicals were seized in Sri Lanka. In a public event, the police destroyed 900 kg of cocaine that was seized during 2017.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

96. The challenges posed by methamphetamine, heroin and related chemical precursors in South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific are so significant that no country can face them alone.

97. Potential heroin production in Asia continued to increase and coincided with the increasing acreage devoted to opium poppy cultivation in the region. The persistent demand for opiates, coupled with the lack of development assistance and alternative income sources for opium poppy growers, have been driving factors for the high levels of opium poppy cultivation.

98. Substantial amounts of illicitly produced precursor chemicals are being continuously diverted and trafficked in Asia. Attributable in part to the booming

chemical industry in the region, the wide availability of precursor chemicals for both synthetic drugs and opiates is a significant challenge for Member States.

99. There is a need to promote interregional cooperation to counter drug trafficking in the context of the southern route, which would help to raise awareness among Member States of the key impact of Afghan opium production in terms of demand and supply.

100. Use of the Internet for drug trafficking, including the use of dark web, has emerged as a major challenge for law enforcement agencies worldwide. There is an urgent need to increase awareness of law enforcement agencies and policymakers about the necessity to develop adequate regulations regarding drug trafficking activities conducted over the Internet. A systematic capacity-building initiative for improving the knowledge and skills of law enforcement officers in relation to this issue is highly recommended.

101. There is a need to further promote human rights-based approaches to handle the drug problem, emphasizing the human aspects of the problem rather than the punitive response.

102. In some cases, enforcement agencies lack sufficient technical capacity and expertise to deal with issues such as new psychoactive substances, the investigation of drug trafficking activities conducted over the Internet, the abuse of pharmaceutical drugs and other issues. Such agencies are also affected by a shortage of personnel trained to address those issues.

103. There is a need to educate people on drug abuse, to address outdated beliefs and remove prejudices that present barriers to rational use. Public education programmes that focus on the ill effects of the misuse of pharmaceutical preparations should be further enhanced.

104. The system for the dispensation of medication through pharmacies, in particular in South Asia, needs to be improved, in order to prevent the diversion of controlled medicines. Bar coding should be made mandatory to enable the tracing of medicines in the supply chain. There is a need to increase the number of inspections so as to improve the monitoring and supervision of retail pharmacies.

105. In line with recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, enhanced coordination between drug demand reduction and supply reduction agencies is crucial, as is the strengthening of a balanced, health-centred approach to drug control.

B. Recommendations

106. Member States may wish to consider multilateral and multifaceted approaches to addressing challenges posed by illicit drugs and precursor chemicals in South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, including by:

(a) Further strengthening efforts to building awareness among the general public, especially young people, teachers and parents, about the growing public health concerns associated with the abuse of drugs (including pharmaceuticals preparations), as well as promoting evidence-based prevention standards by engaging schools, families and communities;

(b) Increasing the capacity of national authorities to gather and share data and information on illicit drugs effectively, in particular the extent of drug use and its implications, such as drug-related deaths, as such data are largely unavailable;

(c) Improving data collection mechanisms used for estimating requirements for controlled medicines;

(d) Establishing a partnership with the pharmaceutical industry to control the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations and formalizing the terms of such a partnership by establishing coordination mechanisms at the national level that would

bring together all relevant government agencies and the private trade and industry sectors, so as to facilitate information and intelligence-sharing with trading partners, thereby leading to better coordination of regulatory, medical and pharmaceutical practices;

(e) Strengthening relevant legal frameworks to reflect current developments in illicit drug markets and, for those Member States that have not yet done so, ratifying or acceding to the international drug control treaties and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(f) Enhancing the knowledge and skills of law enforcement officers, in particular in countries with limited resources and capacity, to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking offences more efficiently, through the provision of appropriate training on drug and precursor trafficking, as well as specialized training initiatives, including on the use of the Internet for drug trafficking purposes;

(g) Continuing to strengthen coordination and cooperation between national enforcement and regulatory agencies to facilitate the sharing of information and ensure the effective implementation of laws, regulations, policies and programmes;

(h) Enhancing support for mechanisms for cross-border and regional cooperation on drug matters, including relevant sectoral bodies of ASEAN, the memorandum of understanding on drug control in the Greater Mekong subregion and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, as well as through bodies including the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation;

(i) Further strengthening the functions of the border liaison office mechanisms in order to interdict and act upon the movements of illicit drugs and precursors across land borders, through enhanced cross-border and inter-agency cooperation;

(j) Developing similar approaches in selected ports, by strengthening container control mechanisms and inter-agency cooperation, to improve the capacity to interdict maritime traffic in illicit drugs and related precursors by relevant port authorities;

(k) Further strengthening the capacity of national forensic laboratories to detect narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(l) Enhancing drug and precursor identification and profiling capacity through the development of infrastructure, training and networking, including by engaging with the chemical industry;

(m) Strengthening regular and rapid intelligence and operational data-sharing among law enforcement authorities in the region in order to respond to organized criminal groups effectively through joint operations;

(n) Increasing investments in promoting evidence-based research and approaches, such as drug use surveys and thematic assessments (including among women and in prisons), and strengthening data collection and analysis mechanisms, while collecting epidemiological data on an ongoing basis and sharing them among various agencies dealing with drug-related matters;

(o) Supporting the implementation of evidence-based drug use prevention policies and programmes;

(p) Strengthening appropriate intervention strategies through regular outreach programmes among the most vulnerable and at-risk populations, such as injecting drug users, who are particularly susceptible to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C, as well as continuing to raise awareness among drug law enforcement officers regarding the needs of drug users and related health concerns;

(q) Transitioning, where applicable, from the model of compulsory drug treatment centres towards community and voluntary services, since such

evidence-based approaches are more effective than incarceration in addressing the harmful consequences of drug abuse;

(r) Taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem.

V 18-05399

31 July 2018

English only*

Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2–5 October 2018
Item 4 of the provisional agenda**
Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Colombo from 24 to 27 October 2016, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues identified below.

2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, was forwarded to the Governments represented at that Meeting. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations was dispatched on 5 April 2018, with a deadline for replies set at 9 July 2018.

3. The present note was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As at 27 July 2018, replies had been received from the Governments of Georgia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Member States that have not provided responses for inclusion in the present report or Member States whose responses have not been included because they were received after that date may wish to brief the Meeting on the implementation of recommendations under the corresponding agenda item.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.
** UNODC/HONLAP/42/1.

Please recycle

II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

Issue 1. New developments in national and regional responses to the evolving threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances

Recommendation (a)

Governments should consider reviewing current drug control policies and frameworks to reflect the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

4. Georgia reported that its Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Combating Drug Abuse had adopted the National Strategy for Combating Drug Abuse and its respective Action Plan for the period 2016–2018. Georgia stated that the Action Plan 2016–2018 was aimed at incorporating all drug abuse-related recommendations made by international organizations, international experts, the Public Defender's Office of Georgia and local non-governmental organizations. The Strategy and Action Plan were based on four pillars (prevention and education, demand and harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation, and supply reduction) and were aimed at the integration of a human rights-based approach into drug control efforts. Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs remained committed to developing proactive policing and to changing from a reactive policing model to an intelligence-led one, thereby creating a unified approach to drug control and crime analysis.

5. Japan reported that its fourth Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy (2013) included five objectives, namely: (a) prevention; (b) treatment and social reintegration of drug users and prevention of relapse; (c) eradication of illicit drug trafficking; (d) prevention of drug smuggling at the border; and (e) international cooperation. The Government of Japan reviewed the corresponding action taken every year. Japan reported that, in 2017, 14,745 offenders were arrested for drug-related crimes, 10,284 offenders for stimulant-related crimes and 726 offenders for new psychoactive substance-related crimes. The programme entitled "Emergency Measures to Eliminate Dangerous Drug Abuse", introduced in 2014, had dramatically reduced the number of crimes related to new psychoactive substances.

6. Malaysia reported that it had reviewed its National Drug Policy (1996) and adopted an updated, inclusive and comprehensive policy in 2017, based on best practices from Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Among the 10 main challenges identified at that time were new psychoactive substances, treatment and rehabilitation for users of amphetamine-type stimulants, and the reintegration of recovering drug users. The policy prioritized collaborative strategies implemented by various Government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

7. Myanmar considered its new drug control policy (February 2018) to be in compliance with the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. The policy included components on supply reduction and alternative development, demand reduction and harm reduction, international cooperation, and research and analysis, and used a human rights-based approach, taking into account in particular the needs of women and children.

8. New Zealand referred to its Psychoactive Substances Act (2013), which regulated the availability of psychoactive substances to protect the health of, and minimize harm to, individuals who use psychoactive substances. New Zealand explained that, at the time of reporting, the Act was under review, with a view to amending it to address the drug landscape of 2018 and beyond.

9. Pakistan reported that its National Anti-Narcotics Policy (2010) was being reviewed at the time of reporting. It was in the process of finalization to meet new

challenges and international obligations, in line with the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

10. The Russian Federation reported that its Ministry of the Interior was paying particular attention to the prevention of drug use. On 4 December 2017, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hosted an international parliamentary conference on the theme "Parliamentarians against drugs", which included panel discussions on, inter alia, treatment and rehabilitation. The Russian Federation further reported that, in 2017, the list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors subject to control in the Russian Federation had been amended four times. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior, as the competent authority, carried out the review and preparation of advance notifications concerning the export of precursors (pre-export notifications) received from and sent to the competent authorities of foreign countries via the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system.

11. Singapore reported that, in 2017 and 2018, it had listed a total of 26 new psychoactive substances as class A controlled drugs in the First Schedule to the Misuse of Drugs Act of Singapore, and had also listed 5 new psychoactive substances in the Fifth Schedule to the same Act.

12. According to the reply of Sri Lanka, necessary steps were taken by the country's National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to amend the Poison, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, the Conventions against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Drug Dependent Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act.

13. Turkey reported that no action had yet been taken in that regard.

Recommendation (b)

Governments should encourage the sharing of information and cooperation relating to technical support between national forensic laboratories responsible for the profiling of illicit drugs, particularly regarding the identification of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances.

14. Georgia reported that its State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities of the Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs granted permissions for the importation of reference standards by the Proficiency Testing Programme of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes Drugs Working Group.

15. Japan reported that the forensic chemists working in several laboratories belonging to different ministries shared information on and discussed new tools and ways of countering illicit drugs at an annual intergovernmental meeting, thereby improving their analytical techniques and accuracy.

16. According to the reply of Malaysia, the Department of Chemistry, in particular its Narcotics Division, was equipped with instruments for routine analysis, drug profiling and analysis of new psychoactive substances, and its technical staff had been trained. Information drawn from case work and research was shared within the Asian Forensic Sciences Network, as well as with UNODC through the annual report questionnaire.

17. Myanmar reported that it had enhanced its forensic laboratories by providing six gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer machines for qualitative and quantitative analysis of illicit drugs. The Chemical Examination Department cooperated and shared information with its partner institution in Thailand. Myanmar also took part in the UNODC international collaborative exercises to identify unknown seized materials. The Government further reported that it frequently shared information and drug samples with counterpart agencies, including in Thailand and Australia.

18. New Zealand reported that, in May 2015, the National Drug Intelligence Bureau had bid on a project for a pilot wastewater drug testing programme to quantify drug

use and provide objective insight into patterns of drug use. The Bureau had partnered with the Institute of Environmental Science and Research, which is the country's national forensic laboratory to formulate and analyse domestic drug consumption in wastewater, and had cooperated with forensic laboratories in Australia on a methamphetamine signature programme.

19. Pakistan reported that it had seven national laboratories working on the profiling of illicit drugs, in particular regarding the identification of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances, in order to facilitate the timely exchange of data between domestic law enforcement agencies.

20. The Russian Federation reported that the revision of Inter-agency Order No. 535/1143/679/2664 of 27 December 2012 of the Federal Drug Control Service, the Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Security Service and the Federal Customs Service was in its final stage.

21. Singapore stated that its forensic laboratories participated in many international sessions to share technical information on the analysis of new psychoactive substances. In September 2017, together with the Asian Forensic Sciences Network, Singapore organized the ninth annual meeting and symposium of the Network.

22. Sri Lanka reported that two proposals had been submitted to enhance bilateral partnerships with Oman and Malaysia to facilitate the exchange of, inter alia, scientific and forensic work programmes, research studies and laboratory training programmes. The establishment of bilateral networks of drug testing laboratories for the sharing of scientific information and intelligence was also envisaged. In addition, Sri Lanka aimed at the implementation of joint programmes on science, technology and innovation in the field of drug control with partner institutions.

23. Turkey reported that no action had yet been taken in that regard.

Recommendation (c)

In their efforts to counter drug trafficking, Governments should encourage their authorities to make use of the tools and services available through UNODC, such as the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances, which is a tool for information collection and sharing, the annual report questionnaire, the PEN Online system and the Project Ion Incident Communication System, which was developed by the International Narcotics Control Board.

24. Georgia reported that the Government invoked subparagraph 10 (a) of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and used the PEN Online system to oversee the country's legitimate international trade of precursors. Georgia also participated in Project Ion and the Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS). Georgia also prepared the annual report questionnaire every year.

25. According to the reply of Japan, new psychoactive substances had been regulated since 2007. Japan had used the information from the Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances and IONICS to report registered substances.

26. Malaysia reiterated its support for the use of systems such as PEN Online, the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and IONICS. It had used PEN Online, which was considered helpful and quick in facilitating bilateral communication, and had received alerts through IONICS. Malaysia also responded to the annual report questionnaire and provided information to the Early Warning Advisory through the Illicit Drugs Working Group of the Asian Forensic Sciences Network.

27. Myanmar reported that it used the above-mentioned tools.

28. New Zealand stated that it regularly used many of the tools available, such as the annual report questionnaire, PEN Online, Project Ion and PICS.

29. Pakistan reported that it made full use of PEN Online and PICS, using an authenticated system of monitoring and checking.

30. The Russian Federation reported that the Ministry of the Interior prepared the advance notifications concerning the export of precursors received and sent via the PEN Online system. It also participated in the system for identifying and reporting new psychoactive substances as part of Project Ion.

31. Singapore reported that it used PEN Online and IONICS.

32. Sri Lanka reported that it used PEN Online and the annual report questionnaire.

33. Turkey reported that the Early Warning Systems Working Group continued its activities within the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Recommendation (d)

Governments should, as a matter of urgency, encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to institutionalize their exchanges of operational intelligence through the use of existing regional cooperation platforms and shared protocols so as to counter the illicit actions of drug traffickers.

34. Georgia reported on operational activities undertaken with foreign counterparts by Georgian police attachés, among others. A specialized unit of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation was established in the Central Criminal Police Department in 2017, handling cooperation on drug trafficking and other issues. It was also reported that, in 2017, Georgia signed international law enforcement cooperation agreements with China, Germany, Greece (not in force) and Sweden.

35. The drug law enforcement authorities of Japan, namely, the police, customs authorities, the coast guard and narcotics control authorities, were reported to cooperate frequently with their counterparts in investigating drug-related crimes and exchanged relevant information at regional meetings. An intergovernmental personnel exchange system was also mentioned.

36. Malaysia reported that the sharing of information and intelligence between its law enforcement agencies and international agencies had led to numerous successes in the fight against international drug trafficking syndicates. With regard to its activities at the regional level, Malaysia referred to its participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Airport Interdiction Task Force.

37. Myanmar referred to the membership of its national law enforcement agency in the Safe Mekong Operation Project, the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control and other regional and bilateral cooperation platforms, such as the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters, the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime.

38. New Zealand reported that the National Organized Crime Group unit within the New Zealand Police was at the forefront of joint agency investigatory cases in New Zealand and across borders. As an example, it mentioned operation Heracles/Vamoose, a joint police and customs operation that, with the aid of international law enforcement agencies, had led to the country's largest seizure of cocaine.

39. Pakistan reported having worked with the drug liaison officers of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in the framework of memorandums of understanding. Regional cooperation platforms such as a joint planning cell and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Drug Offences Monitoring Desk were mentioned. Pakistan expressed the need to further institutionalize the exchange of information and establish active connections between regional forums for effective operational cooperation.

40. The Russian Federation referred to Order No. 970 of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation (approved on 27 December 2017).

41. Singapore reported that it cooperated on a regular basis with foreign law enforcement agencies in Malaysia and Thailand through the exchange of information and intelligence and joint investigations. Furthermore, Singapore referred to joint training courses and cooperation through regional platforms such as the ASEAN

Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters, the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle, the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters. Singapore had also signed memorandums of understanding on cooperation on drug issues with India and Australia.

42. Sri Lanka reported that its Police Narcotics Bureau extended cooperation to foreign agencies, which had led to successful investigations. Under the Bureau, a SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk had been established.

43. Turkey reported that there were 142 police liaison officers from 47 different countries posted in Turkey, and 14 liaison officers from Turkey posted in 15 different countries.

Issue 2. Measures to ensure comprehensive and balanced efforts at the national level to reduce drug demand

Recommendation (a)

Governments are encouraged to adopt a comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem.

44. Georgia indicated that its Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Combating Drug Abuse was mandated to ensure a balanced, integrated and human rights-based approach. The Government had initiated reform efforts on the following topics: (a) distinguishing criminal liability for drug possession and distribution; (b) balancing law-enforcement and medical-social measures and abolishing the obligation of ambulance personnel to inform the police about overdose cases; (c) adopting the Law on New Psychoactive Substances, using a comprehensive and balanced approach; (d) adopting soft administrative sanctions for, inter alia, the possession, purchase and use of a small amount of marijuana (5 grams) or cannabis (10 grams), and abolishing deprivation of liberty for the possession, purchase and use of defined amounts of marijuana and cannabis. The legislative amendments were approved by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council on 27 March 2018 and were to be submitted to the Government and the Parliament shortly thereafter. Regarding data collection and analysis, authorities of Georgia cooperated closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). A National Drug Situation Monitoring Centre was being established, which would operate under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council and would have approximately 21 staff members.

45. Japan reported that it not only ensured law enforcement, but promoted a variety of measures, such as education, awareness-raising, treatment and rehabilitation, based on the fourth Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy. The Government encouraged the development of balanced strategies by prefectural authorities and shared information on prevention measures aimed at youth. Japan reported on research that had shown that only 1 per cent of the population of Japan had abused drugs over their entire lifetime.

46. Malaysia stated that its National Drug Policy was comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary. It described five lines of action: (a) preventive education; (b) treatment and rehabilitation; (c) enforcement; (d) harm reduction; and (e) international cooperation. Community involvement had been enhanced by promoting and advocating empowerment strategies across the country through registered treatment and rehabilitation centres, anti-drug volunteers, community leaders and the community at large.

47. Myanmar reported that it had adopted, as part of its new national drug control policy, a demand and harm reduction policy that was linked to public health and development-led approaches.

48. New Zealand reported that it adhered to the National Drug Policy 2015–2020.

49. Pakistan stressed that its efforts were based on the three strategic pillars highlighted in the Anti-Narcotics Policy 2010, namely, drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and international cooperation. International cooperation was realized in the framework of the United Nations conventions, SAARC and bilateral agreements, including memorandums of understanding on drug control with 33 countries and extradition treaties with 29 countries.

50. The Russian Federation reported that a set of measures to implement the State Anti-Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2020 was at the final stage of approval.

51. Singapore indicated that it had adopted a multipronged approach to the drug problem, comprising: (a) enforcement against drug supply activities; (b) rehabilitation of drug abusers through a mandatory treatment and rehabilitation regime; (c) preventive drug education on the harms posed to the community by drugs, especially youth, including through social media; (d) awareness-raising through nationwide events; and (e) targeted rehabilitation and aftercare efforts to help drug abusers reintegrate into society.

52. Sri Lanka reported that the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board took action on its three main strategies of supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction, in cooperation with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations. A total of 34 stakeholder institutions were engaged in drug law enforcement, prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation efforts.

53. According to the reply of Turkey, a balanced approach had been adopted that considered both drug addiction and drug trafficking, and various institutions had been designated to deal with the drug problem from both angles.

Recommendation (b)

Governments are encouraged to ensure a balanced distribution of resources with a view to enabling the adequate implementation of their supply and demand reduction policies.

54. Georgia indicated that its demand reduction policy was implemented through preventive and educational programmes, substitution programmes, abstinence-oriented treatment programmes and social interventions focusing on minimizing the factors contributing to drug abuse, such as unemployment and domestic violence. The State-funded treatment programme had components on in-patient detoxification and primary rehabilitation, replacement therapy, pharmaceutical alternatives and psychosocial rehabilitation. In 2017, 6,500 persons had benefited from the programme. As at May 2018, 9,172 persons had received comprehensive treatment from the opioid substitution programme and 435 persons were involved in the stationary detoxification programme. Supply reduction was the main responsibility of 120 officers of the Central Criminal Police Department, who participated in various inter-agency and international projects.

55. In reference to its supply reduction measures, Japan indicated that, in 2017, 14,745 offenders had been arrested for alleged drug-related crimes, and approximately 1.1 tons of methamphetamine had been seized. A total of 4,796 persons suspected to be associated with the crime syndicate "Yakuza" had been arrested in 2017. In regard to demand reduction, the Reoffending Prevention Promotion Plan had been adopted in 2017, on the basis of the Act for the Prevention of Reoffending, which had entered into force in 2016. Under that plan, the Government of Japan cooperated closely with prefectural and regional authorities to reintegrate drug addicts into society.

56. Malaysia reported that the implementing agencies of the National Drug Policy were, among others, the police, the customs authority, the National Anti-Drugs Agency, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The distribution of resources was reviewed from time to time in accordance with the current needs and the financial ability of the Government, upon

the request of the agencies or through the National Council on Addressing Illicit Drugs.

57. According to the reply submitted by Myanmar, the Government had increased its financial investment in the health sector to ensure the improvement of medical services, including drug treatment, medical research and HIV prevention and treatment. Law enforcement and development agencies had their own budgets. The revised drug law included the establishment of a fund to use for both supply and demand reduction.

58. New Zealand mentioned that, under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Corrections could bid for funding for drug treatment projects, while the police and the Customs Service could bid for funding for law enforcement initiatives. The Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs assessed all related bids from Government agencies and made recommendations.

59. Pakistan reported that the Government proportionately allocated its resources in accordance with its drug control strategies and following a threat analysis. Supply reduction efforts had been stepped up, owing to the proximity of Pakistan to Afghanistan, which had experienced an unprecedented and massive increase in drug cultivation and production in 2017. In terms of demand reduction, Pakistan reported that it had undertaken awareness-raising programmes, media campaigns and other activities under a project entitled "Community participation in drug demand reduction" and a youth ambassador programme aimed at awareness-raising. Furthermore, model treatment and rehabilitation centres were in operation in three cities.

60. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had yet been taken in that regard.

61. Singapore reported that it had a balanced distribution of resources for implementing demand and supply reduction policies. Resources were allocated to reduce drug supply through intelligence and enforcement operations and investigations, and to reduce drug demand through prevention efforts and supervision.

62. Sri Lanka reported that the Government facilitated drug prevention campaigns at the national level, and at the same time was strengthening its law enforcement activities. A special task force on drug prevention had been established to coordinate drug prevention activities. Law enforcement mechanisms were being strengthened through resource allocation, scientific training and the adoption of new technologies.

63. Turkey stated that it had adopted a balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction activities in its national policies and strategies.

Recommendation (c)

Governments are encouraged, where appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to consider alternatives to conviction or punishment, such as treatment, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

64. Georgia reported that its State-funded treatment programme provided detoxification treatment to about 1,000 patients per year, in both in-patient and out-patient contexts, as well as opioid substitution treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, which recently had also been combined with measures for psychosocial rehabilitation. A substitution therapy programme for opioid-dependent inmates in penitentiary institutions had been implemented within the penitentiary system pursuant to a joint order of the Ministers of Corrections and Health Care. It had been fully integrated into the State-funded treatment programme. Georgia also carried out a social enterprises project in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Switzerland that offered a long-term work rehabilitation programme to former substance abusers and persons at high risk of substance abuse. Over the course of the project, 98 beneficiaries (83 male and 15 female) had successfully completed the work rehabilitation programme cycle.

65. Japan reported that persons who used illicit drugs were punished; however, they were provided with educational programmes and medical services in the correctional institutions. The Ministry of Justice considered those measures to be effective in the prevention of reoffending, but was also considering measures that foreign countries implemented as alternatives to imprisonment.

66. Malaysia reported that, since the enactment of the Drug Dependants (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act in 1983, persons affected by substance use disorders were being referred to treatment programmes. In 2010, a voluntary treatment programme had been introduced.

67. According to the reply of Myanmar, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law had been revised in February 2018, thereby decriminalizing drug use with a view to improving the accessibility of treatment for drug users as an alternative to jail sentences. The policy was aimed at allowing drug users to receive treatment and other social services voluntarily.

68. New Zealand reported that, in mid-2017, the pilot of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court had been extended for another three years. The Court was designed to supervise offenders whose offending is driven by their dependency on alcohol or other drugs by providing judicial oversight of their engagement with treatment programmes and rehabilitation support services before they are sentenced. The desired outcomes of the Court pilot were to reduce reoffending and imprisonment, reduce drug and alcohol consumption and dependency, make a positive impact on the health and well-being of offenders and be cost-effective.

69. Pakistan stated that alternatives to conviction or punishment were being implemented. The Control of Narcotic Substances Act of 1997 provided for the registration, treatment, detoxification, de-addiction, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social integration of addicts, and the National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse financed treatment and rehabilitation efforts. At the national level, there were approximately 96 treatment facilities and 33 drop-in centres run by the Government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. With regard to drug smugglers and suppliers, however, Pakistan did not foresee any alternatives to punishment, as it considered punishment to be the most appropriate option.

70. The Russian Federation stated that its Criminal Code provided for deferral of punishment for drug addicts, for example, for a first-time offender, if that person was recognized as a drug addict and had expressed the wish to voluntarily undergo drug addiction treatment and medical and social rehabilitation, until such treatment and rehabilitation ended, but for no longer than five years. Once the drug addiction treatment and medical and social rehabilitation had been successfully completed and after confirmation that the person had remained in remission for no less than two years after completing the treatment, the court released the person. The Russian Federation also referred to the note accompanying article 6.9 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation, which foresaw that a person voluntarily seeking treatment from a medical institution for the abuse of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, without doing so on the order of a doctor, was exempt from administrative liability for an offence. A person duly recognized as a drug addict could, subject to his or her consent, be referred for medical and/or social rehabilitation, and thus could be absolved of administrative liability for offences related to the use of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

71. Singapore reported that first- and second-time drug abusers were referred to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre as an alternative to imprisonment. Young people assessed to be at low risk of reoffending were placed in the Youth Enhanced Supervision Scheme, a structured rehabilitation programme aimed at helping young first-time drug abusers reintegrate into society. Under the programme, the young drug abusers received counselling and casework components delivered by social service agencies, in addition to periodically reporting for urine tests. As part of the programme, families of the young drug abusers were engaged, as strong family support was considered integral to rehabilitation and integration.

72. Sri Lanka reported that, in accordance with the Act on Drug Dependent Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation), the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation was conducting drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes in cooperation with non-governmental organizations for drug-related offenders referred by the criminal justice system. The residential treatment capacity in Sri Lanka was planned to be expanded.

73. Turkey reported that the use, possession and acceptance of drugs were considered to be crimes, but instead of punishment for those crimes, probation measures had been implemented.

Issue 3. Best practices in preventing and countering drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, and measures to improve international cooperation in that regard

Recommendation (a)

Governments are encouraged to engage in international, regional and subregional cooperation as an effective measure against money-laundering.

74. Georgia reported that its Government had established close cooperation with the law enforcement authorities of the member States of the European Union and other States, in order to prevent risks related to money-laundering. Authorities were intensively engaged in international, regional and subregional network meetings and workshops, which was considered an effective measure for exchanging practical and operational information on drug-related and money-laundering issues.

75. Japan reported that it cooperated with international partners through the Financial Action Task Force, the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and its financial intelligence unit, a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Japan also cooperated with other countries on a bilateral basis.

76. Malaysia referred to its membership in the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and the Egmont Group, as well as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.

77. Myanmar noted that it was a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Furthermore, Myanmar referred to its membership in the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, and reported that its Financial Intelligence Unit had signed memorandums of understanding with 13 counterparts in other countries.

78. New Zealand reported that it was a member of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Its Financial Intelligence Unit was a member of the Egmont Group and actively made a practice of sending and receiving relevant financial information via the Egmont Secure Web or by means of the police liaison network. The Financial Intelligence Unit and police staff were involved in mutual evaluations of other countries by the Financial Action Task Force, and the Ministry of Justice was leading preparations for the country's own evaluation in 2020.

79. Pakistan reported that, in accordance with the provisions of its Control of Narcotic Substances Act, letters of request were regularly sent to different States in relation to drug-related assets and money-laundering, whenever information on the involvement or conviction of a citizen of Pakistan was available. In the same way, letters of request received from foreign States were responded to. The country's financial intelligence unit had applied for membership in the Egmont Group.

80. The Russian Federation reported that a draft federal law was being prepared to amend certain legislation on countering the financing of terrorism and other unlawful acts, which addressed, inter alia, the prevention of the use of bank accounts (deposits) and electronic means of payment for the purpose of drug trafficking.

81. Singapore reported that it had concluded an agreement with the United States to facilitate drug law enforcement cooperation between both countries, specifically in the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking and money-laundering offences. The country's Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office shared information with foreign financial intelligence units under the auspices of cooperation agreements (memorandums of understanding or letters of undertaking). The Office had signed more than 40 such agreements. Singapore was also an active member of various groups such as the Financial Action Task Force and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (as a founding member), as well as the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and ASEANAPOL. Its financial intelligence unit was a member of the Egmont Group.

82. Sri Lanka reported that its Prevention of Money Laundering Act had been amended and its measures were being implemented in cooperation with regional organizations.

83. Turkey reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

Recommendation (b)

Governments are encouraged to enact or amend their legislation so that it complies with international standards and relevant conventions on combating the financing of the illicit drug trade.

84. Georgia considered that its legislative framework related to combating the financing of the illicit drug trade was in compliance with the standards contained in international instruments and addressed all current challenges.

85. Japan reported that it had taken the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force into consideration and had recently amended the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, including by enhancing the strict verification of correspondent contracts upon signing, expanding the obligation of private business operators to develop their anti-money-laundering structure and maintaining a dedicated list of cryptocurrency exchange traders.

86. Malaysia reported that it had enacted its money-laundering legislation in 2001 and had amended it repeatedly since then. The police had a specific office for the forfeiture of property, which worked closely with the Central Bank of Malaysia to detect the illicit money flows of drug syndicates. Under the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988, alleged drug syndicate members were investigated and the proceeds of drug trafficking could be confiscated.

87. Myanmar reported that, in its legal system, it complied with international standards through its laws and regulations on money-laundering and counter-terrorism.

88. New Zealand reported that its money-laundering legislation of 2009 provided the basis for the reporting of financial information to the financial intelligence unit. Reporting by professional facilitators had recently been included. Continuous revision of best practice, and action to implement it, was under way. By way of example, the police had contributed to a project led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on a beneficial ownership register for New Zealand, which included companies and partnerships on the basis of information from the police.

89. Pakistan considered that its Control of Narcotic Substances Act of 1997 complied with international standards, including with regard to financial investigations and the confiscation of proceeds of crime. The offences criminalized under the Act were considered predicate offences to money-laundering, and the Anti-Narcotics Force was empowered to investigate and prosecute money-laundering offences.

90. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

91. Singapore noted that its money-laundering legislation criminalized the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other serious offences and enabled authorities to trace, freeze and confiscate the assets of convicted drug traffickers. It also contained a reporting requirement that required a person who knew or had reasonable grounds to suspect that any property might be connected to a criminal activity to file a suspicious transaction report. Furthermore, the organized crime legislation of 2016 criminalized involvement in organized crime activities, provided for courts to issue preventive orders to constrain the activities of organized criminal groups and included a civil confiscation regime that targeted the benefits derived from organized crime, including those from drug trafficking. Taken together, those provisions aimed to curtail and dismantle criminal groups and deprive them of their ill-gotten gains. Singapore indicated that the legislation was reviewed periodically to ensure that it remained relevant and complied with the international standards and anti-money-laundering provisions of the relevant international conventions.

92. Sri Lanka indicated that its relevant legislation in that regard included the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, No. 05 of 2006, and the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, No. 40 of 2011.

Recommendation (c)

Governments should ensure that the anti-corruption measures that they have put in place to maintain the integrity of their financial investigation units are regularly revised so that they are effective and support the development of an appropriate organizational culture.

93. Georgia considered its legal and institutional framework against corruption to be adequate. The Anti-Corruption Council had approved, and the Government had adopted, the new Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan in September 2017.

94. Japan reported that the employees of the Japan Financial Intelligence Centre were public employees, and as such, if they committed acts of corruption, such as the acceptance or giving of bribes, they were liable to criminal prosecution under the Penal Code. In addition, the National Public Service Officials Ethics Code strictly prohibited acts that could bring about suspicion and distrust among citizens, for example, by restricting public employees' contact with interested parties. Disciplinary action could be taken against officials who violated the Code. The Code had been amended several times, in line with prevailing trends, to maintain a high standard of ethics and integrity among public service officials.

95. Malaysia mentioned that its Forfeiture of Property Office was the agency responsible for conducting investigations into illicit funds used by drug syndicates to finance their operations. The Office worked closely with the Central Bank and applied to its officers the strict measures and regulations on corruption prevention foreseen by the Central Bank.

96. Myanmar referred to the fact that it was a State party to the Convention against Corruption and had established relevant norms in its anti-money-laundering law.

97. New Zealand reported that the financial investigation units within the New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Financial Intelligence Unit (which did not have an investigative function) were subject to the same high level of scrutiny as all police staff. In particular, Financial Intelligence Unit staff were vetted at a high level.

98. Pakistan referred to its anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering legislation. The Federal Government had adopted measures to address the threat posed by corruption within domestic law enforcement agencies and took action against personnel involved in any type of corruption, including malpractice during financial investigations, under the Civil Servants Act and the Efficiency and Discipline Rules.

99. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

100. Singapore indicated that it had strict rules and regulations in place that governed the conduct of all officers, including those handling financial investigations. For example, officers were expected to make asset declarations on an annual basis, and to comply with the standards of professional conduct prescribed in the Government's Instruction Manual. Those measures were subject to periodic reviews to ensure their effectiveness and relevance.

101. Sri Lanka stated that the anti-corruption measures implemented by the Government of Sri Lanka and the financial investigation unit had been strengthened.

Issue 4. Addressing the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the world drug problem

Recommendation (a)

Governments should develop and implement policies tailored to the specific needs of female drug users in order to increase their access to treatment for drug use disorders.

102. Georgia reported that its penitentiary system provided preventive and medical treatment to all accused or convicted persons with drug addiction that took into account the specific needs of female accused and/or convicted persons.

103. Japan indicated that there were no specialized correctional institutions for female offenders in Japan. Assistance for drug withdrawal was provided to inmates with drug use disorders without distinction based on sex.

104. Malaysia stated that it had already recognized the special needs of female drug users for decades. A dedicated treatment facility for female drug users had been set up, and a number of treatment facilities across the country were also equipped to accommodate female drug users. Women were involved in the formulation of policies, including those related to female drug users.

105. According to the reply of Myanmar, the country's new drug control policy took women and children into consideration with regard to drug use by promoting non-discriminatory access to justice, health care and social services in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

106. New Zealand referred to the Te Ara Oranga project, which was an integrated model of police and health-care activity designed to reduce the harm caused by methamphetamine use in communities of the Northland region. The project was aimed at making treatment resources more accessible to specific groups of users, including women, while at the same time focusing court resources on offenders involved in significant criminal activity. Furthermore, the Department of Corrections launched the Women's Strategy 2017–2021, and the police were involved in pilot projects in which women with specific needs in regard to drugs were identified. The youth justice age had been raised from 17 to 18 years of age, which was expected to bring young pregnant mothers with drug abuse issues before the youth justice system, thereby giving them the opportunity to avoid prison.

107. Pakistan reported that there were specific provisions in its drug-related legislation for the care of children and women. In that connection, Pakistan had created additional treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Among them was a female and juvenile model addiction treatment and rehabilitation centre that provided free treatment, boarding and lodging, following a treatment protocol approved by the Government that included medical therapy, psychological therapy, personal and family interaction, rehabilitation skills and post-treatment communication.

108. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

109. Singapore stated that a gender-responsive approach had been adopted in assessing and addressing the specific needs of female offenders when developing and implementing the policies of its Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

110. According to the reply of Sri Lanka, a separate treatment ward was available to female drug users, and outreach workers at the community level encouraged women to take advantage of it. A study on female drug users had been conducted to provide a basis for policymaking and the development of a treatment plan for female drug users.

Recommendation (b)

Governments are encouraged to ensure proportional sentencing and to develop and implement gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment, in particular for women who commit minor drug-related offences or women with parental and other caretaking responsibilities, in line with international instruments such as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

111. Georgia reported that no action had been taken in that regard.

112. Malaysia reported that offenders who were found guilty of using illicit drugs and being drug-dependent were sent to treatment programmes and not to prison. In that connection, gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment were available and prenatal and postnatal care was provided to pregnant drug users and young mothers, respectively.

113. Myanmar stated that its drug control policy promoted criminal justice sector responses to drug use and minor drug offences committed by women and children, using a human rights-based approach that included proportionate legal response mechanisms.

114. According to the reply of New Zealand, in 2016, 44 per cent of the female prison population had drug dependence disorders, versus 37 per cent of the male population. The above-mentioned Women's Strategy was aimed at addressing the response to that group. A new facility for females seeking help for drug dependence was opened. Furthermore, a working group had been set up to explore ways to reduce reoffending by girls. A significant portion of female inmates (75 per cent) had been raped or sexually abused, and drug use was often entwined in their lives as a coping mechanism, which needed to be taken into account in the development of responses.

115. Pakistan stated that the special courts took the needs of women into consideration at the time of bail and often released women on probation. Guidelines regarding the sentencing of women had been issued by the Lahore High Court that covered gender-sensitive issues in relation to the imprisonment of women.

116. The Russian Federation reported that the court could defer the enforcement of a sentence imposed on a pregnant woman or a woman with a child under the age of 14 until the child reached that age, with exceptions for certain serious or very serious offences. Pregnant women and women with children under three years of age were exempt from community service, punitive deduction of earnings, compulsory labour and short-term rigorous imprisonment.

117. Singapore stated that it had a spectrum of interventions in place to ensure that drug users were channelled to the appropriate type of treatment and rehabilitation.

118. According to the reply of Sri Lanka, welfare facilities and other relevant facilities were provided to women with parental responsibility in prison settings. In addition, counselling and education services and preschool services for children were provided by prisons or correctional centres.

Recommendation (c)

Governments, in their efforts to ensure multisectoral policy approaches to the drug problem, should increase the presence of women in law enforcement institutions and provide gender-sensitive training to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals.

119. Georgia reported that a gender-sensitive approach had been integrated into all major educational programmes of the Penitentiary and Probation Training Centre. In that regard, in 2016, 1,757 employees had been trained, including the staff of two penitentiary establishments where accused women were placed. In 2017, 461 people had undergone training on topics related to gender sensitivity. The four-day annual international conference on the theme "Women in Policing" was held in Georgia and attended by female police officers from 13 countries.

120. According to the reply of Japan, law enforcement agencies were working to increase the presence of female staff members by setting recruitment targets for female staff. Moreover, the Ministry of Justice was implementing comprehensive measures to improve the operation of the prison that housed female inmates, to develop treatment programmes that focused on the specific needs of female inmates and to a create a better work environment. Gender-sensitive training was provided to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals.

121. Malaysia reported that the number of female officers in enforcement institutions was considered sufficient. Numerous training programmes, including on the standard operating procedures in cases involving women, were provided to law enforcement officers to enhance their performance in operations targeting illicit drug activities.

122. Myanmar indicated that the national police had a gender-balanced policy and actively recruited new female police officers. International cooperation on capacity-building for female police officers had been established with a view to tackling gender-based crimes.

123. New Zealand reported that its police had a policy aimed at promoting the recruitment of women in law enforcement. The most recent group of recruits had the highest proportion of female members ever, nearly 54 per cent. All police officers underwent gender-sensitive training, in particular with regard to victims of sexual assault.

124. Pakistan stated that female officers formed an integral part of the Anti-Narcotics Force. Gender-sensitive issues were duly highlighted in all the courses delivered at the Anti-Narcotics Force Academy.

125. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

126. Singapore reported that it had engaged international experts to train officers of the Drug Rehabilitation Centre and penal institutions on gender-responsive approaches, as well as on the use of specific assessments tailored to the risks and needs of female drug abusers.

127. Sri Lanka stated that gender-sensitive training was provided to law enforcement officers, health professionals, treatment providers and other relevant officials.

Recommendation (d)

Governments are encouraged to gather sex-disaggregated data in community and prison settings in order to better assess the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the drug problem, and to facilitate the development of evidence-based policies.

128. Georgia reported that risk and needs assessments were undertaken in all penitentiary establishments, including the one for women. On the basis of the results of the assessments, specific needs and safeguards relevant to female addicts in communities and prisons had been identified.

129. Japan stated that its prisons utilized data on sex, type of offence and other factors in implementing assistance for overcoming drug addiction. A number of factors, including gender, were examined to assess the effectiveness of the drug relapse prevention programmes in community settings.

130. According to the reply of Malaysia, the lead drug agency in Malaysia was responsible for collecting and analysing drug-related data from different drug-related agencies. The data collected could be disaggregated by sex and thus could inform an analysis of the needs of women and girls for treatment and other services, as well as support the development of evidence-based policies.

131. Myanmar reported that the Government collected disaggregated data in the prison department, drug treatment department and at the community level, but a full assessment with regard to the drug problem had not been conducted yet. Data on gender discrimination in prisons were still lacking.

132. New Zealand stated that many government departments routinely collected gender-related and other demographical data on persons charged with drug offences, persons imprisoned for drug offences and persons entering hospitals or treatment facilities for drug dependency issues. The knowledge obtained from that data helped to inform policies such as the Women's Strategy 2017–2021.

133. The Russian Federation stated that no measures had yet been taken in that regard.

134. Singapore reported that research had shown that women's pathways to substance abuse, compared to men's, often arose from dysfunctional relationships with their partners and spouses. Furthermore, it was important to address gender-specific needs relating to trauma, mental health and parenting. In that connection, the Drug Rehabilitation Centre had adopted a gender-responsive approach to assessing and addressing the specific needs of women offenders.

135. Sri Lanka referred to a study it had conducted on the patterns and prevalence of drug use among women and trends related to their drug use, stigmatization and involvement in illegal activities. A database was also maintained that included data on drug-related arrests and treatment.

III. Conclusions

136. Nearly all responding States reported that they had reviewed their existing drug control policies and frameworks and had consequently updated their drug control strategies or legislation to reflect the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. Most of them had implemented cooperation and support measures among the national forensic laboratories responsible for the profiling of illicit drugs, both at the domestic and international levels. All responding States reported having made use of the tools and services available from UNODC, with most frequent mention made of the PEN Online system, the services of Project Ion and the annual report questionnaire. All States had institutionalized mechanisms to exchange operational intelligence through bilateral cooperation, memorandums of understanding and regional cooperation platforms.

137. All States indicated that they had adopted a comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem, and a number of countries reported on concrete measures taken to integrate prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and law enforcement into a comprehensive action plan. States also reported on mechanisms established to ensure a balanced distribution of resources, with a view to enabling the adequate implementation of their supply and demand reduction policies. Roughly half of the countries had introduced alternatives to conviction or punishment, such as treatment, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Those countries had either introduced full-fledged systems for alternatives to conviction and punishment or had taken closely related measures, and one country reported that it was testing such measures in a pilot project.

138. Nearly all States reported on their engagement in international, regional and subregional cooperation against money-laundering, mostly through the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the relevant mechanisms in the framework of ASEAN and the Egmont Group. Nearly all States considered their anti-money-laundering legislation to be in compliance with international standards and relevant conventions, and a number of States had recently amended their legislation to bring it in line with those standards. Approximately half of the States reported having taken measures to maintain the integrity of their financial investigation units by, inter alia, subjecting officers working in those units to disciplinary rules and procedures.

139. The majority of reporting States indicated that they had developed and implemented policies tailored to the specific needs of female drug users in order to increase their access to treatment for drug use disorders by, inter alia, making specific institutions and treatment plans available. More than half of the States implemented proportional sentencing and gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment, in particular for women who committed minor drug-related offences or women with parental and other caretaking responsibilities. Nearly all States provided gender-sensitive training to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals, and more than half of them reported specific measures to increase the presence of women in law enforcement institutions. The majority of States reportedly gathered sex-disaggregated data in community and prison settings in order to better assess the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the drug problem.